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☑ USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC

☐ USA Securities, LLC

Nadine Morton filed Proof of Claim No. 10725-00558 against USA Commercial Mortgage Company in the amount of \$16,882.42. The USACM Liquidating Trust (the "USACM Trust") hereby objects to Ms. Morton's claim. The basis for the claim is shown in the attachment as an investment in USA Capital First Trust Deed Fund, LLC ("FTDF"). Accordingly, it is a claim that was incorrectly filed in the USA Commercial Mortgage Company ("USACM") case. The USACM Trust respectfully requests that this claim be disallowed as a claim against USACM. Any claim held by Ms. Morton against USACM solely on account of her investment in FTDF is derivative of FTDF's claims against USACM. Under a settlement approved by the Court on June 12, 2007, all such FTDF claims were settled, with FTDF holding a \$7.0 million allowed general unsecured claim and beneficial interest in the USACM Liquidating Trust. The equity interest holders in FTDF will share in any recovery on account of that claim.

The Official Committee of Equity Security Holders of FTDF ("FTDF Committee") further objects to allowance of Ms. Morton's claim as a claim against the FTDF estate.

Bankruptcy Code section 502 authorizes a party in interest to object to claims. <u>See</u> 11 U.S.C. § 502(a). Upon such objection, this Court, "after notice and a hearing, shall determine the amount of such claim in lawful currency of the United States as of the date of the filing of the petition" 11 U.S.C. § 502(b). Although a proper proof of claim is presumed valid under Bankruptcy Rule 3001(f), once an objection controverts the presumption, the creditor has the ultimate burden of persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim. <u>Ashford v. Consolidated Pioneer Mortg.</u> (In re Consoldiated Pioneer Mortg.), 178 B.R. 222, 226 (9th Cir. B.A.P. 1995), <u>aff'd</u>, 91 F.3d 151 (9th Cir. 1996) (quoting <u>In re Allegheny International, Inc.</u>, 954 F.2d 167, 173-74 (3d Cir. 1992)).

The FTDF Committee has analyzed the Morton claim and has determined that it has been incorrectly designated as a "proof of claim." Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 502, a "creditor . . . may file a proof of claim." An equity security interest holder,

however, must file a proof of interest. <u>See</u> 11 U.S.C. § 501(a). Bankruptcy Code section 101(16) defines "equity security" to include a "share in a corporation, whether or not transferable or denominated 'stock', or *similar security*" or a "warrant or right . . . to purchase, sell, or subscribe to a share, security, or interest" of a share in a corporation. 11 U.S.C. § 101(16) (emphasis added). <u>See also</u> Nev. Rev. Stat. §86.521 (upon dissolution of a limited liability company, a limited liability company must pay liabilities to creditors before paying liabilities in respect of profits and/or capital to members of the limited liability company).

The Morton claim clearly reflects that it is based on its membership in the FTDF and not based on any debt Ms. Morton holds against the FTDF. For example, annexed to the Morton claim are account statements that list the number of shares Ms. Morton holds in the FTDF, the price of such shares, and the FTDF Member's account identification number. Membership interests and/or shares in the FTDF clearly fall within the definition of "equity security" under Bankruptcy Code section 101(16). Thus, the holders of the equity interests are equity security interest holders of the FTDF and do not hold unsecured claims against the FTDF estate.

This objection does not seek to prejudice the rights of Ms. Morton as an FTDF member to recover from the FTDF estate on account of her membership interest of \$26,533,50, which is more than the amount asserted in the Morton claim, i.e., \$16,882. Ms. Morton shall retain her interest in FTDF in the amount of \$26,533.50 as reflected in the books and records of FTDF. Indeed, Ms. Morton has received distributions based on this FTDF membership interest to date, with no objection.

Accordingly, the USACM Trust and the FTDF Committee seek entry of an order that will disallow the Morton claim against USACM, disallow any proposed allowance of the Morton claim in the FTDF case, and appropriately allow Morton to retain its equity

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	ROCA LAWYERS			
1	Copy of the foregoing			
2	Mailed this 8th day of August, 2007 to:			
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